

June 2009



Sylvan Lake Shoreline

Get the news you need at: www.slia.net

Clean-Up Day Was Saturday Morning, May 16!

A BIG Thank you to all that helped around the lake on clean-up day! Many hands helped to make light work of the needed improvements at the beach and on the easements.

The flower pots are almost all planted and look beautiful. The beach has new sand and the swimming peer is ready for the summer.

New mulch was spread on the trails and there was brush cutting, shoveling and raking, as well as 5 tons of rock moved down to stop erosion on the lake shore. And when it was all finished at noon we had a SLIA special (hotdogs and hamburgers) lunch at the beach for all the helpers.

Thanks for Helping!



Special Notices

A special thank you

We thank Dan Kjeldbjerg (*Poul's Landscaping*) for bringing his front loader to the beach and helping to spread the new sand. It saved a lot of backs. We all know it involved quite a bit to get it here from your work place on Diamond Lake Road/ Indian Creek Road.

Regardless, thanks again. You two are great neighbors.

Mike Trahan and the SLIA board

Memorial service announced

The Washburns are holding a memorial service for Sarah Anne Washburn (Dan Washburn's mother) Friday evening 7:00 pm June 19 at St Mary's Church. All are invited.

Thanks you
Dan & Sandi Washburn

Welcome to our new neighbors

Phil Moreton & Linda Weiler

112 Crescent Drive
815-405-5407

David & Beth Kruse

211 Highland Drive
847-989-0033

Emergency Call Button ?

What and Where Is It?

For the Sylvan Lake old-timers, the answer to this question may be obvious. But for many who were not around when the emergency call box was installed, this may be something new...and possibly critically important to know.

The community has a red emergency call box mounted on the utility pole in the landscape triangle across the street from the beach. This triangle is at the intersection of Highland and North Sylvan. The red box contains a simple push button that can be used if you need to call a paramedic or the police. Simply open the box door and push the button. This calls 9-1-1 and the Lake County Sheriff Emergency Operations Center will answer and verbally ask you the nature of the emergency through a speaker located on the box. After you explain your emergency, the Sheriff's call center will summon the proper assistance. Their system will know the call is from Sylvan Lake Beach as soon as the button is pushed.

If you are near this box when an emergency arises, placing the emergency call on this box is slightly preferable to calling 9-1-1 on a cell phone because the location of the call box is instantly identified by the emergency system. Of course, if you need to use your cell phone, it is a good reporting alternative.

The SLIA board has coordinated with the Sheriff's office to perform regular tests of the call button. Sylvan Lake pays for this telephone line, and the board feels it is well worth the expense – even in these days of common cell phone usage. Let's hope we never have to use it.

Major SLIA Projects Proposed

Section 319 grant proposal

This project is intended to improve lake water quality in Sylvan Lake in accordance with recommendations contained in the Indian Creek Watershed Plan. Several Best Management Practices (BMP) for pollution prevention will be utilized, including installation of three stormwater treatment structures on existing storm sewers that currently discharge directly to the lake or it's tributary drainage swales, structural streambank protection within two tributary ravines, and conversion of an existing eroded drainage ditch into a bioswale.

Should the Section 319 grant be awarded, it is understood that work must be completed by December 31, 2010. It is anticipated that work would begin in the fall of 2009 and be complete in the summer of 2010. The local share match will therefore be spread over two annual budget periods for both the FTHD and the SLIA.

Description of Specific Proposed BMPs and Management Objectives

- #1 The Beach at North Sylvan Drive Stormwater Treatment Structure
- #2 Wildflower Terrace Stormwater Treatment Structure and Storm Sewer Extension
- #3 Hiawatha Terrace Stormwater Treatment Structure and Storm Sewer Extension
- #4 Hiawatha Terrace Riprap and Rock Riffle Placement
- #5 Maple Park Streambank Stabilization
- #6 Valley View Terrace Construction Access and Bioswale Restoration

Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Committee leaders give their reports.

Ladies of the Lake (formerly Garden Club) – Christy Adler reported the Easter egg hunt was a great success with over 500 eggs being found. Fourth of July activities will be held on Saturday, July 4.

Parks/Easements – Identify projects and areas needing attention. Storm on March 29th caused some damage to trees around the neighborhood and the need to bring in contractors to remove them may be needed.

Major Projects – Due to the storm on March 29th the bridge at Maple Park was washed out and needs to be repaired.

Newsletter NEWS Needs Your Help

I will need help to pass along the information for the next issues of the *Sylvan Lake Shoreline*. If you would email me any information or pictures about the past happenings or up coming events for the Sylvan Lake community it would make for very interesting reading for everyone!

August 15th issue news is needed by:

August 1st, 2009

Pictures welcome!

Send to Donn Hamm at:

dehamm@comcast.net

Please put Shoreline in the subject line.

Shoreline is a Newsletter for the Sylvan Lake Community, Sylvan Lake, Illinois

2009 CARP-O-RAMA

HEADLINE:

CARPZILLA CAUGHT BY MOLSEN POSSE

Chris Molsen landed the carp of the century Friday around midnight. A T-shirt, a beer, a kernel of corn, a bell and ten minutes later the largest ever Carp-O-Rama carp was history. The sixteen pound thirty inch monster all but destroyed the rest of the field's quest for the highly coveted Carpzilla trophy. This year's trophy featured multiple hand-carved fish up to thirty inches long all made from a Sylvan Lake willow tree. There is only one man capable of crafting such a trophy, Sylvan Lake master trophy carver Gary Love. For the third year in a row Gary has carved a trophy for the winner of Carpzilla quest. This year the trophy was so grandiose that Gary needed to enlist the help of his son and apprentice Jake Love to ensure it was completed on time. As in the past Gary refused compensation and related that he created the trophy as a labor of Love.

Second place went to John Scharff and friends for their six and a half pound carp. From now on I will refer to John as 'The Shark' for his Greg Norman like ability to finish second.

Carp-O-Rama kicked off on Friday with a new twist. I cooked four different original carp recipes and served them up to a few brave young men. With enough spices and beer I can make almost anything taste good, nothing was wasted. There was also carp fishing tackle handed out to all in attendance.

Some of the lake's previous big hitters were missing from this year's lineup. Two-time Carpzilla winner Kevin Zaleski didn't wet a line. We did get a good showing from some of our other regulars like the Slattery family who came to the scale with thirty-eight pounds. Perennial competitor Linda Mihel

weighed in 36 pounds. John Scharff and friends won second place big carp and weighed in 75 pounds. The big winners were Chris Molsen and Peter Graham families and friends. They won the first and third place big carp prizes as well as bringing in one 104 pounds of fish. This group was sporting custom Carp-O-Rama T-shirts while catching most of their carp between the dam and the boat ramp. If you run into Chris ask him how he landed the third place carp after it pulled his pole into the lake.

All totaled we caught one hundred and fifteen carp weighing two hundred and sixty nine pounds. The numbers were down from last year but the average weight per fish was up by .35 pounds per fish. It's too soon to declare a victory over the carp but the numbers are going in the right direction.

For the neighborhood newbies, Carp-O-Rama is a Sylvan Lake Memorial Day weekend tradition that dates back to before I can remember (1980). It was devised as a lake management tool to reduce rough fish population and educate the

community in a socially fun and minimally invasive way.

Why remove carp? If a lake has too many carp they stir up the bottom sediment when they feed which alters the water chemistry, which prevents desirable plants and animals from thriving. We strive to develop natural biological diversity in our lake so we may share the benefits of environmental health.



Neighbors you should know...

STAN AND RITA RAK - Celebrating 50 YEARS on Sylvan Lake!

This past winter a few alert neighbors informed me that Stan and Rita would be celebrating their 50th year of living here at Sylvan Lake and wanted to know if I would be writing "A Someone You Should Know" article about them.

I asked Stan and Rita if they would do some homework while vacationing to fill in the blanks for me. Instead they wrote their own entertaining story.

Thank you Stan and Rita for 50 years of friendship and good nature !

Jeri Swanson

Stan and I are very proud and happy to be celebrating the 50th anniversary of buying our house on Sylvan Lake. We thought we would tell you a little about life on the lake 50 years ago and share our experiences.



We were married 1954 in Landstuhl, Germany where Stan was stationed

as a medical specialist. After returning from Germany, Stan took a position in Chicago where we both grew up but, after three years, the city traffic got to him and he wanted to live in the country, preferably on lakefront property. He wrote to many realtors in northern Illinois asking if they had lake property for sale. At the time, a realtor lived at Sylvan Lake and he wrote back saying there was a vacant house that needed a lot of work and the whereabouts of the owner was unknown. The house had not been lived in for about two years and during that time the upstairs water pipes froze and broke, sending water to the first floor for about 6 weeks. The interior window sills were gnawed by squirrels and most of the interior walls were painted dark red. The owner was located and we agreed to purchase the property.

We moved from our Chicago apartment May 1, 1959 into this spooky abandoned old house that had a metal sign nailed over the lakeside porch door proclaiming "Point Comfort". We both worked then and by the

time we dealt with our yard, the weeds were three feet high and Stan had to cut the half acre lot with a huge scythe.

Living at Sylvan was so different from living in Chicago. The nights were total darkness and the sky had zillions of bright stars. In the summer, you could hear crickets, frogs and cows on the nearby farms. It was not uncommon for us to wake up in the morning or come home after dark and see a cow in our yard. There were about 80 homes around the lake, most of them small summer cottages. Sylvan Lake was a natural setting and it was forested with beautiful trees and, generally, landscaping had been done for practical rather than decorative reasons. The lake had aquatic plants and the water was quite clear. The bays had fallen tree limbs which supported painted turtles and frogs, and were barely navigable by late summer because of thick seaweed. The fishing was great!

At that time none of the mothers around the lake worked outside of their homes. Most of the moms and children lived at the beach every day. The dads got good meals when it rained or the weather was too cold to meet at the beach. Also, Garden Club was a lot of fun and still is! Every year we had a "come as you are" surprise breakfast. The board members would knock on doors as soon as the school bus left and we would meet at the chosen home. Everyone was a good sport, arriving with pajamas, robes, curlers and no make up.

Rita joined the Garden Club in 1959, the year we moved to Sylvan Lake. She was treasurer on and off for about 25 years and hosted the Christmas (Holiday Party) for 20 years straight.

Sylvan Lake owned and maintained our roads with pea gravel and tar, which took most of the association's money. The Winter Club contracted with a local farmer to plow our roads and, in the spring, we would use the left over money to throw a dance party at the fire station.

The roads were completely dug up to install our sewers in 1969 and, following the completion of that project, we voted to



turn the roads over to Fremont Township. The installation of the sewers impacted our community more than any other project since we arrived. The septic systems never worked and most yards had seepage because of the poor soil and small lots. Lake County would not issue permits to expand old houses nor to build new large houses. With the sewers installed, they permitted larger houses with more bathrooms and bedrooms, and values of vacant lots tripled soon afterwards.

Our children, Stanton and Sheryl, went to Fremont school, which was only one small building, and Mundelein High School. Both graduated from the University of Illinois in Champaign. Sheryl received her MS degree in computer engineering and Stanton received his PhD degree in chemistry from the University of Minnesota.

In 1975 we enlarged the living room and added a deck, a greenhouse room, and a walk out basement.

Stan feels one of his biggest contributions to our community was bringing about the defeat of the proposed 160 acre landfill, between 1977 and 1979, that was to be located between Indian Creek Road and Midlothian Road, just south of our lake. Waste Management Corp. purchased the garbage truck storage property on Indian Creek Road, as well as the 80 acres beside it, and they filed for a permit with the Illinois EPA to develop a landfill on the 160 acres. Stan spent a great deal of his time over a period of two years as a regional community organizer to have the permit denied four times.

We have always loved living at Sylvan Lake. It is like a paradise to us. The lake was enjoyed by us, our children, and now our grandchildren.

It has been a Happy 50 Years!

Officials redoubling gypsy moth efforts

BY CHARLES KEESHAN ckeeshan@dailyherald.com

From Wednesday, May 27, 2009 Daily Herald

A year after tree-devouring gypsy moths blazed what one official called a “historical” trail of destruction in McHenry County (also in Lake County), the county and 15 other local governments are teaming up to double efforts aimed at halting the pest in its tracks.

Under a plan outlined before a county board committee Tuesday, the governments will spend about \$200,000 - four times as much as a year ago - to spray about 3,500 acres over the next two weeks with a species specific pesticide aimed at eradicating the insect while still in its caterpillar stage.

“This is our window of opportunity,” Deputy McHenry County Administrator John Labaj said Tuesday.

The moth, which slowly has been spreading across the United States since the late 1800s, typically will not kill the trees in which it lives. But it will devour its leaves - as much as 1 square foot a day - leaving wide swathes of trees defoliated. Last year, the county on its own spent about \$50,000 to spray 1,700 acres, but it was not enough to prevent a particularly bad infestation that left hundreds of trees across the county without leaves.

Among the hardest hit areas was the east side of Lake in the Hills.

“We even had to hire tree climbers to get up in the (tree) canopy to remove them,” said county board member Paula Yensen, a former Lake in the Hills village trustee. “It some how got out of control last year.”

This year, the village hopes to keep the situation under control by pitching in on the spraying effort. It will be the first time the village has used spraying to control the moth, said Scott Parchutz, superintendent of public properties.

The spraying done from low-flying helicopters, is not harmful to humans, pets or wildlife, but it can be sticky.

Labaj said it could take weeks before officials know how well the expanded spraying works.

A watchful eye should be kept in Sylvan Lake as the Gypsy Moths favorite tree is the oak!



Illinois Department of Natural Resources Has Jaws and Gives Tickets at Sylvan Lake! *By John Hynds*

Just when you thought it was safe to go back on the water a man with a badge in a green uniform approaches and asks for your identification. You can debate the sudden change in state conservation enforcement but the fact remains that this is what you can expect when you choose to go out on the water in Lake County. Yes even private Sylvan Lake is subject to conservation enforcement.

The officers were patient and waited for the three boats to come close to shore to call them over and issue \$75 citations.

On May 30th two Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) officers with a boat in tow visited Sylvan Lake with the intention of checking all fisherman and boaters for compliance with state regulations. I had heard through the grapevine that IDNR had checked other private lakes in the area and it was only a matter of time before we could expect a visit.

It was around 4:30 pm on Saturday May 30th when I noticed a Conservation Department truck with a boat in tow driving past my house. I knew the time had come for our visit. I was curious about how they would deal with our boat ramp being blocked by a pile of sand so I followed them to see how they would proceed. I soon found them at Wildflower easement issuing two citations for 'fishing without a license'. I introduced myself to the officers and engaged in a conversation about the ramp being blocked. They

inquired if they could borrow my canoe and paddles to pursue three boats they spotted on the lake. I contemplated their request but declined after I remembered my canoe didn't have a state sticker. I countered their request with an offer to lend them two shovels and a wheel barrel to help me clear the boat ramp of sand. Instead we reviewed the state boating and fishing regulation violations they were checking for. Here are a few of the most common violations you should be aware of:

- 1) All boats including paddle, canoe, and kayak require state registration and stickers.
- 2) All occupants in a boat shall have an approved life vest with them.
- 3) All children under 14 must wear a life vest while in a boat underway.
- 4) All persons over 15 who are fishing shall have a fishing license on their person.

All state regulations still apply to private property and private lakes.

The officers were patient and waited for the three boats to come close to shore to call them over and issue \$75 citations.

The lesson learned is that private lakes offer IDNR officers an easy opportunity to write citations since most boaters are unaware or complacent about following regulations-myself included.

Officers do not need a warrant or invitation to go on your property to check for compliance of IDNR rules and regulations. For more information go to:

<http://dnr.state.il.us/admin/boats.htm>

Summer Recreation in Sylvan Lake

Volleyball League

Where: Schwerman Park and Bjorklund Park

When: Tuesdays starting June 16th

How Much: \$5.00 Resident / \$10.00 Non-Resident

Contact Sam Ford at (847) 566-4325 with any questions.

Captains will submit roster and funds for entire team prior to first game



Horseshoe League

Where: Point Comfort Park

When: Thursdays starting June 18th

How Much: \$5.00 Resident / \$10.00 Non-Resident

Contact Sam Ford at (847) 566-4325 to enter your team.

**Winners will receive
Sylvan Lake Championship Shirts.**

(Eventually, last year's winners haven't seen squat yet)